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ABSTRACT

The Internet is an international computer network composed of thousands of smaller networks. As K-12 schools connect to the Internet, a new method of communication opens up to educators and their students. This ERIC Digest describes some sample services and resources that are available to the K-12 community by electronic mail over the Internet. Question answering services, electronic discussion groups, and Usenet newsgroups are highlighted. Contains a list of 10 references and readings. (Resources and addresses are subject to change.) (AEF)

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An Introduction to Internet Resources for K-12 Educators, Part II: Question Answering, Electronic Discussion Groups, Newgroups, Update 2000

By Nancy A. Morgan, Updated by Carolyn Sprague

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The Internet is an international computer network composed of thousands of smaller networks. As K–12 schools connect to the Internet, a new method of communication opens up to educators and their students. This Digest describes some sample services and resources that are available to the K–12 community by electronic mail over the Internet. Readers should be aware that the resources and their Internet addresses below are subject to change.

Question Answering:

The number of services that use electronic mail to deliver information is increasing. Services that teachers will find on the Internet include:

- **AskERIC:** AskERIC is the Internet-based education information service of the Educational Resources Information Center (ERIC) system, headquartered at the ERIC Clearinghouse on Information & Technology at Syracuse University. Teachers, library media specialists, administrators, and others involved in education can send a message requesting education information to AskERIC. AskERIC information specialists will respond within two working days with ERIC database searches, ERIC Digests, and Internet resources. The benefit of the personalized service is that it allows AskERIC staff to interact with the user and provide relevant education resources tailored to the user's needs.
  E-mail: *askeric@askeric.org*

- **AskERIC Virtual Library:** Lesson plans and resources developed from questions received at AskERIC are archived at the AskERIC Virtual Library:
  http://www.askeric.org/Virtual

- **KidsConnect:** KidsConnect is a question-answering, help and referral service for K–12 students on the Internet. The goal of KidsConnect is to help students access and use the information available on the Internet effectively and efficiently. KidsConnect is a component of ICONnect, a technology initiative of AASL (American Association of School Librarians, a division of the American Library Association). Students use e-mail to contact KidsConnect and receive a response from a volunteer library media specialist within two school days.
  E-mail: *AskKC@ala.org*
  http://www.ala.org/ICONN/kidsconn.html

- **Internet Public Library Ask-A-Question Service:** Answers all types of general reference questions. You'll get a brief factual answer if you've asked a specific question, or, if you have a broader topic of interest, you'll get a short list of sources that you can use to explore your topic further. IPL's website also contains an extensive online collection of library resources.
  http://www.ipl.org/ref/QUE/

- **Ask Dr. Math:** "Ask Dr. Math," a service for elementary, middle, and high school students, is administered by students and professors at Swarthmore College in Swarthmore, PA.
  E-mail: *dr.math@forum.swarthmore.edu*
  http://forum.swarthmore.edu/dr.math/dr-math.html

- **The MAD Scientist Network:** The MAD Scientist Network is an "Ask-A-Scientist" service run entirely on the WWW. They answer questions in chemistry, physics, astronomy, earth sciences, the biological sciences and more. More than 500 scientists at institutions around the world provide answers to science questions.
  http://www.madsci.org

- **Ask A+ Locator:** The AskA+ Locator is a database of high-quality "AskA" services designed to link students, teachers, parents, and other K–12 community members with experts on the Internet. Profiles of each AskA service include identification information (e.g., publisher, e-mail address, contact person, links to services' home pages), scope, target audience, and a general description of the service. The Ask A+ Locator is searchable by subject, keyword, grade level, or alphabetical list. Ask A+ Locator is part of the Virtual Reference Desk.
  http://www.vrd.org/locator/index.html

Electronic Discussion Groups:

- **ECENET-L:** Early childhood education, to age 8.
  To subscribe, address an e-mail message to:
  listserv@postoffice.cso.uiuc.edu
  In the message body type: subscribe ECENET-L your FirstName LastName
  Archives: *http://askeric.org/Virtual/Listserv_Archives/ECENET-L.html*
  http://ericps.crc.uiuc.edu/eece/listserv/ecenet-l.html

- **EDNET:** Forum on educational possibilities of the Net.
  To subscribe, address an e-mail message to:
  listproc@lists.umass.edu
  In the message body type: subscribe EDNET your FirstName LastName
  Archives: *http://www.askeric.org/Virtual/Listserv_Archives/EDNET-List.html*

- **Edres-L** (also called C-EDRES): Educational Resources on the Internet.
  To subscribe, address an e-mail message to:
  listserv@listserv.unb.ca
  In the message body type: subscribe Edres-L your FirstName LastName

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- **EDTECH:** Educational Technology.
  To subscribe, address an e-mail message to:
  listserv@msu.edu
  In the message body type: subscribe Edtech your FirstName LastName
  Archives: *http://www.h-net.msu.edu/~edweb*
  http://askeric.org/Virtual/Listserv_Archives/EDTECH.html

- **K12ADMIN:** K12 educational administration.
  To subscribe, address an e-mail message to:
  listserv@listserv.syr.edu
  In the message body type: subscribe K12 Admin your FirstName LastName
  Archives: *http://www.askeric.org/Virtual/Listserv_Archives/K12ADMIN-List.html*

- **KIDLINK:** Kidlink Society runs several listservs in support of a global dialog for students 10–15 years of age. Subscribe to KIDLINK listserv to receive information about the other lists.
  To subscribe, address an e-mail message to:
  listserv@listserv.nodak.edu
  In the message body type: subscribe Kidlink your FirstName LastName
  Archives: *http://listserv.nodak.edu/archives/kidlink.html*
  KIDLINK Home Page: *http://www.kidlink.org*

- **LM_NET:** School library/media services.
  To subscribe, address an e-mail message to:
  listserv@listserv.syr.edu
  In the message body type: subscribe LM_NET your FirstName LastName
  Archives:*http://www.askeric.org/Virtual/Listserv_Archives/LM_NET.html*
  Web: *http://ericir.syr.edu/lm_net/*

- **MIDDLE-L:** Education of children 10–14 years of age.
  To subscribe, address an e-mail message to:
  listserv@postoffice.cso.uiuc.edu
  In the message body type: subscribe Middle-L your FirstName LastName
  Archives: *http://www.askeric.org/Virtual/Listserv_Archives/MIDDLE-L.html*
  http://ericps.crc.uiuc.edu/eece/listserv/middle-l.html

- **NET-HAPPENINGS:** Internet related news and announcements.
  To subscribe, address an e-mail message to:
  listserv@cs.wisc.edu
  In the message body type: subscribe Net-Happenings your FirstName LastName
  Archives: *http://scout.cs.wisc.edu/caservices/net-hap/index.html*

- **SPECED-L:** Special education issues discussion.
  To subscribe, address an e-mail message to:
  listserv@uga.cc.uga.edu
  In the message body type: subscribe SPECED-L your FirstName LastName

- **TAG-L:** General discussion about all topics related to gifted children.
  To subscribe, address an e-mail message to:
  listserv@listserv.nodak.edu
  In the message body type: subscribe Tag-L your FirstName LastName

Usenet Newsgroups:

- Usenet Newsgroups are an electronic bulletin board system, accessible via the Internet, that consists of discussion forums on literally thousands of topics. Users should contact their system operator for instructions. Some of the Usenet Newsgroups are:

  news: k12.chat.teacher-General discussion between K–12 Teachers
  news: k12.ed.art-Arts and Crafts Education
  news: k12.ed.business-Business Education
  news: k12.ed.comp.literacy-Teaching computer literacy in grades K–12
  news: k12.library-Implementing Info Technologies in school libraries
  news: k12.ed.life-skills-Life Skills Education
  news: k12.ed.math-Mathematics Education
  news: k12.ed.music-Music and Performing Arts
  news: k12.ed.science-Science Education
  news: k12.ed.soc-studies-Social Studies Education
  news: k12.ed.special-Educating students with special needs

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This Digest was created by ERIC, the Educational Resources Information Center, and updated by Carolyn Sprague, AskERIC Network Information Specialist. For more information about ERIC, seeACCESS ERIC *http://www.accesseric.org/*

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